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Swollen Rolls

IF THEY HAD the vote, the sheer number of State Department workers abroad would make them an attractive bloc to be wooed by foreign politicians.

More than 900 American personnel are attached to the American Embassy in Rome. But this is small potatoes. Move on to Paris and shake hands with 3,000 American Embassy workers.

Still lonely? Cross the Channel and you'll find 4,000 of your countrymen on the payroll of the Embassy in London.

Back to Rome, for purposes of contrast: our 900 attaches, of varying degree of rank and dignity, are matched by only 30 or 40 each in the diplomatic establishments of France and Britain.

Are we so much bigger and so much more important than our French and British friends that we require such overpowering representation abroad?

Or does the State Department imagine magnitude of staff and glitter of quarters are essential tools of diplomacy?

THE SIZE of our Embassy buildings, and often the ostentation of their design, plus the endless ranks of personnel must make some of our foreign friends wonder if they aren't poor cousins who have little in common with that grand, rich, old Uncle Sam.

Certainly the extravagant displays has little in common with the republican simplicity that once marked American missions abroad.

The American taxpayers must be convinced, as we are, that the American Ambassador in London, for instance, does not have enough to say to the United Kingdom that he requires a working force of 4,000 to help him say it.

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